

## **Appendix E**

### **Comment Letters to Draft Community Forest Management Plan**



## Questions about the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan

I understand we are planning on planting 400 new trees in the 3300 empty spaces waiting to be filled. This will take over 8 years. Could we increase this to 600 per year so that we can help balance the lack of older trees? Currently only 25% are over 12 years old, yet we are celebrating our 50 birthday. Then the baby boomers may be able to enjoy in their lifetime.

Be sure to include HOA's in community education, the boards typically meet 6 times per year and would welcome a report on tree maintenance and care.

If we start a tree steward program, I suggest we start with challenging the schools to some sort of contest.

You list lots of indirect public relations, is there one person who will be responsible for this?

Tree selection: Since Carlsbad is famous for our flower fields, it would make sense to capitalize on this with additional flowering tree in our approved list.

Large---Chinese Flame Tree, African Tulip

Medium---Silk Floss, Jacaranda

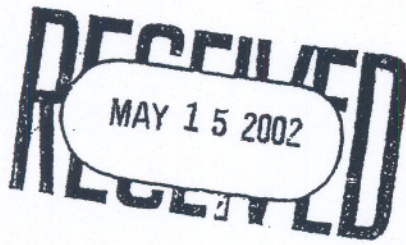
Small---Evergreen Pear, Pink Trumpet Tree, Flowering Peach

All of these can be seen at Quail Botanical Gardens and Balboa Park.

Since Phase II of the Heritage Tree program will be identifying Heritage Trees outside the "Village", can we do this simultaneously to help build community awareness since there is a lack of large trees. This may in turn encourage communities to plant more mature trees in their open space.

In reviewing the stand alone Hosp Grove management plan I have serious concerns about the money and time investment into a park that is geographically difficult to access, has inhospitable topography to humans and trees, is surrounded by major arterial roads and highways, is noisy and used marginally. In a time of diminishing resources and increasing population, it is paramount to invest our dollars in parks that service the greatest part of our population. The natural constraints, disease, lack of diversity, inadequate spacing, inadequate soil cover, poor soil, no irrigation, present a real challenge. The inherent problems with fire, vandalism, remoteness and limited parking are a given no matter what we plant there. I suggest you proceed with the removal of the dead trees and watch closely the expenditures as our budgets evolve in the next 5 years.





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Dear Mr. Carroll,

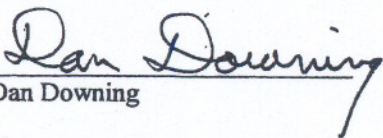
I have read through the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan and offer the suggestions below. I consider myself knowledgeable on the subject of California native plants and growing in an arid area. I am an avid organic gardener and have read several books on planting in this area.

Concerning the tree planting list in Hosp Grove, Coast Live Oak, California Pepper (actually a Peruvian Pepper) and Catalina Ironwood would be excellent choices. The ironwood is often overlooked in planting but its fragrance would be much enjoyed by hikers on the trails. California sycamore would be great but it requires a riparian environment. There may be only a few areas in the grove conducive to its growth. I noted that overhead irrigation is intended, this type of moisture in the air stimulates a fungus on the leaves which causes them to turn brown early in the summer. This is a common problem that can be noticed around the city, such as on the sycamore trees lining El Camino near Palomar Airport Road. I would suggest Catalina Cherry (*Prunus Lyonii*) could be used in the areas of the grove that will be irrigated.

The Plan points out the allelopathic effects of eucalypts, this will make it very difficult to establish any other trees in the area. In addition eucalypts offer very little for native wildlife for food or habitat other than perhaps a bird nesting site. As you know eucalyptus are being attacked by pests and dying at a tremendous rate. In addition, all eucalyptus species are listed in appendix F of the Carlsbad Landscaping Plan as a "Restricted High Fuel Species", which refers to its extremely high flammability. It is now time to let the eucalypts simply pass on and establish other plants and trees that can contribute to wildlife habitat. No new eucalyptus should be planted! Instead we might want to plant toyon, manzanita and scrub oak.

I also have suggestions on the City Approved Replacement Tree List. I suggest Chinese Elm would be a good addition to the list, it gives the good canopy list desired by the Planning Commission. I would not recommend any eucalyptus for the same reasons I discussed above. Another problem with eucalyptus is that its leaves do not decompose well because of the high oil content. It is well known among gardeners to never use their leaves in compost bins because it will kill the microbes which create the compost. This is a problem as we are now collecting green waste curbside in the city for composting. Pine species are generally a problem when planted along a street since the drip pitch on cars parked underneath. Magnolia can be a nice tree but it is a maintenance problem of leaves and seed pods for which I have personal experience. Holly Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) is also on the list, these trees have been planted on the center divider on Palomar Airport Road and have done very poorly, many have died. The Coast Live Oak would grow much better in its place, to add variety the Interior Live Oak (*Quercus Wislizenii*) could also be used. I have personally grown the Interior Live Oak in Carlsbad with excellent results.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

  
Dan Downing